

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26897

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT

SUBJ: LEONE'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: ROME 11002

SUMMARY: QUAI CONSIDERS ITALIAN PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 1-3 VISIT TO PARIS UNCONDITIONAL SUCCESS. VISIT CONFIRMED THAT SEPTEMBER 10 EC FONMIN MEETING IN COPENHAGEN HAD DISSIPATED PREVIOUS FRANCO-ITALIAN MISUNDERSTANDINGS, PARTICULARLY ON US-EC RELATIIONS. LEONE AND POMPIDOU FOUND AGREEMENT ALSO ON DETENTE POLICY, MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ME DANGER. END SUMMARY

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN EUROPE GELADE TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 9 THAT ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE'S STATE VISIT TO PARIS OCTOBER 1-3 HAD REVEALED MANY FEWER DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARIS AND ROME THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED. QUAI EUROPEAN DIRECTOR DE MARGERIE TOLD POLCOUNS IT HAD UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. GOF WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED WITH REALLY AMICABLE TONE FO METINGS, MOST OF WHICH TOOK PLACE "TETE-A-TERE" BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS OR THEIR TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. QUAI INDICATED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITALY WHICH HAD EXISTED

UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY DISSIPATED DURING THE COPENHAGEN MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOREIGN MINISTERS ON SEPTEMBER 10. DE MARGERIE, GELADE AND QUAI ITALIAN DESK OFFICER DEBENEST GAVE EMBOFFS FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN ON VISIT.

2. RELATIONS WITH THE EAST WERE ONE MAJOR TOPIC. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU REAFFIRMED HIS DETENTE POLICY BUT EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF REMAINING VIGILANT, AND DEALING WITH THE EAST FROM POSITION OF MILITARY STRENGTH. LEONE AGREED WITH POMPIDOU ON THIS AS HE DID REGARDING ANOTHER PRINCIPLE SUBJECT, ATLANTIC RELATIONS; ON THIS TOPIC, POMPIDOU HAD EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO MAINTAINING ALLIANCE BUT STRESSED AT SAME TIME THAT HE WAS SEEKING A REAL DIALOGUE WITH USG ON THE BASIS OF FRANKNESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT. DE MARGERIE EMPHASIZED THAT ITALIANS AND FRENCH AGREED ON NEED FOR US TROOP AND NUCLEAR PRESENCE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. EUROPE WAS THIRD MAIN TOPIC MENTIONED BY QUAI. POMPIDOU AND LEONE HAD AGREED ON NEED FOR EC NINE TO DEVELOP CLEAR SENSE OF "EUROPEAN IDENTITY". IN THIS CONTEXT THEY PRAISED RESULTS OF COPENHAGEN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. BOTH AGREED THAT SOME NEW IDEA SHOULD BE LAUNCHED TO FURTHER DEVELOP EC UNION; POMPIDOU MENTIONED IDEA HE HAD THROWN OUT TENTATIVELY IN HIS SEPTEMBER 27. PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING MORE FREQUENT EUROPEAN MEETINGS AMONG CHIEFS OF STATE RPT STATE OR PRIME MINISTERS. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO REACH ANY CONCLUSION ON THIS POINT, LEONE HAD AGREED THAT EUROPEAN UNION REQUIRED SOME NEW INITIATIVE. AS STATED IN BRIEF PAPER PUBLISHED BY GOF AND GOI OCTOBER 4, PRESIDENT LEONE URGED THAT REGIONAL EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND BE ESTABLISHED AS DECIDED OCTOBER 1972 EUROPEAN SUMMIT; IN HIS REPLY POMPIDOU SUPPORTED LEONE'S REQUEST BUT LINKED IT TO PRIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION. QUAI CONFIRMED PRESS INTERPRETATION THAT THIS MAKES ITALY'S RETURN TO THE "SNAKE IN THE TUNNEL" A PRE-CONDITION OF EC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LESSDEVELOPED REGIONS INCLUDING THOSE IN ITALY. QUAI ALSO INDICATED THAT GOF BELIEVES ITALY IS TAKING SERIOUS STEPS TO REINTEGRATE WITH EUROPEANS "SNAKE."

4. MIDDLE EAST WAS OTHER KEY NON-BILATERAL TOPIC DISCUSSED BY LEONE AND POMPIDOU, ACCORDING TO QUAI. POMPIDOU WAS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC, PUTTING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON ISRAEL FOR BEING UNWILLING TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS WHICH WERE REQUIRED. ITALIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER MORO'S MIDDLE EAST ANALYSIS DID NOT DISAGREE ON THIS SCORE ACCORDING TO QUAI. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED URGENT NEED FOR MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION AND ADDED TWO IMPORTANT POINTS FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO WORK ON: THE PROBLEMS OF PETROLEUM AND TERRORISM.

5. BILATERAL TOPICS WERE DEALT WITH ONLY SUPERFICIALLY, IN CONTEXT OF CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN ALL FRANCO/ITALIAN RELATIONS. POMPIDOU ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO ITALY WITHOUT ESTABLISHING ANY DATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED TO MEET MORE FREQUENTLY.

6. QUAI SAID POMPIDOU AND LEONE MET PRIMARILY IN CONTEXT OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND NEIGHBORLY TIES AND ONLY SECONDARILY IN MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT. GELADE SAID NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY IN ITALY, HAD PLAYED UP PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF TWO PRESIDENTS WHICH STRESSED MEDITERRANEAN TIES, BUT ACTUALLY THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE MENTION OF MEDITERRANEAN IN WORKING SESSIONS EXCEPT REGARDING MIDDLE EAST. DEMARGERIE TOLD POLCOUNS POMPIDOU ALSO USED OCCASION OF VISIT TO EMPHASIZE LATIN TIES BETWEEN FRENCH AND ITALIAN PEOPLES, IN A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE SOUTHERN TIER OF THE EC WHICH IS OFTEN AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS MORE "INDUSTRIALIZED AND PURPOSEFUL" NORTH.

7. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION OCTOBER 9, ITALIAN DCM CONFIDENTIAL

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ROMANO DESCRIBED VISIT IN SIMILAR TERMS. HE CONFIRMED BROAD AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRENCH AND ITALIAN LEADERS ON MAJOR ISSUES CONFRONTING US AND EUROPE. HE SAID ITALIANS EVEN AGREE WITH FRENCH ON NEED FOR CLEAR SEPARATION BETWEEN HANDLING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN EC CONTEXT AND DEFENSE PROBLEMS IN NATO CONTEXT. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THIS FUNDAMENTAL FRENCH POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED, ROMANO SAID ITALIANS NEVERTHELESS BELIEVED THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE EVOLUTION OF FRENCH VIEWS SINCE SUMMER, BOTH TOWARDS US IN ALLIANCE FRAMEWORK AND TOWARDS EIGHT PARTNERS IN EC. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THIS APPARENT MOVEMENT IN FRENCH ATTITUDES COULD BE PARTLY TACTICAL, ROMANO WAS NEVERTHELESS CONVINCED THAT THERE HAD IN FACT BEEN "IMPORTANT FRENCH EVOLUTION" TOWARDS VIEWS OF FRANCE'S ALLIES. ROMANO SAID HE BELIEVED THIS ASSESSMENT OF FRENCH POSTURE WAS SHARED BY MOST EC PARTMENTS.

8. ROMANO SAID TENTATIVE FOUNDATIONS HAD BEEN LAID FOR A POSSIBLE "DEAL" INVOLVING EC REGIONAL AND MONETARY POLICIES. ITALIANS ARE PRESSING FOR GENEROUS ALLOCATION TO "MEZZOGIORNO" FROM REGIONAL

DEVELOPMENT FUND, WHICH ACCORDING TO 1972 SUMMIT,
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY END OF 1973. ROMANO SAID
THERE WAS HOPE FOR FRENCH SUPPORT FOR RDF ALLOCATION
TO MEZZOGIORNO, IN RETURN FOR "ITALIAN MONETARY
DISCIPLINE", I.E. RETURN OF LIRA INTO EC SNAKE.
DEMARGERIE CONFIRMED POSSIBILITY OF DEAL SUGGESTED ABOVE.

9. RE BILATERAL ISSUES, ROMANO SAID FRENCH HAD
PUSHED FOR ITALIAN ADOPTION OF SECAM TELEVISION SYSTEM.
ITALIANS SAID THEY WOULD STUDY POSSIBILITY.

GDS

IRWIN

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